

REMARKS

Claims 2–25 were previously pending in this application. Applicant has canceled claim 9 and amended claims 2, 8, 13, and 18. As a result, claims 2–8 and 10–25 are pending with claims 2, 8, 13, 18, 22, 23, 24, and 25 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Longbit Chai for the telephone interview of December 9, 2005 and email discussion of the claims on Jan. 12, 2006. In the interviews, Examiner Chai indicated that amending the independent claims to include notation similar to that used in claims 8 and 9 would increase clarity of the claims. Applicant has provided such notation as requested. Examiner Chai also indicated that claim 2 would be allowable if amended to include sending an accept message, similar to claim 5, and that claim 8 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of claim 9. Applicant has amended the claims as requested solely to further prosecution of the present application. As a result, Applicant believes that all the claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Type of Response: Amendment after FINAL
Application Number: 09/955,924
Attorney Docket Number: 177765.01
Filing Date: 09/19/2001

Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure – Technology Center 2100

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,
Microsoft Corporation

Date: _____

1/16/06

By: _____

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